

# Free men's Champion.

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## The Freeman's Champion

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By S. S. PROUTY.

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### New Social Movement.

Reformers as a class, are generally poor, and the high price of land in most of the proposed localities for social effort, has prevented and will continue to prevent many from doing anything practical in the direction of social reorganization. They very naturally want to own the land they occupy from the start, and where a man has next to nothing to begin with, and land costs from \$25 to \$100 per acre, this is not easily done.

Now, if land can be got at a cheap rate with nearly all the desired advantages, and an opportunity to develop the rest, this difficulty will be avoided.

In many parts of Missouri are quantities of land which can be had at from twelve and a half cents to seventy-five cents and one dollar an acre, (by actual settlers.) After June next, all the government land in Southern Missouri can be had on these conditions, at not over seventy-five cents an acre. The State is fast being settled by Free State men, so that the objection against settling in a Slave state is of no consequence. The Anti-slavery feeling is fast gaining a preponderance, and those who are disposed to attend to their own affairs and not meddle with those of other people, can live without molestation in any part of the State.

I have recently seen a man, (Mr. Sumpter,) who has traveled considerably in the State and purchased land in the South-Western District. He observed closely the condition of things, and from him and other reliable sources, I gather the following information:

The soil is generally good, some variety, but mostly a clay soil, including some, too, muck; well adapted to growing fruit, which together with sweet and Irish potatoes, melons, and in fact everything that thrives well in a good, loose warm soil, grows luxuriantly. Grapes of good size and fine flavor, grow wild. There is every variety of scenery, from rich low lands to mountains and valleys. Prairies abound to some extent, though not so much as in some other States of the West. Beautiful running streams of good water abound in many localities, and also springs of good water more or less pure. Plenty of fish and game for those who want them. The Summer season is about a month longer at each end than in the latitude of Central Ohio; and melons, Indian corn and many other things come to a perfection not attained in more Northern latitudes.

The winters are mild and short, and stock requires but little care. Mr. S. said that cattle were good beef when he last, (about June 15th,) thought the Spring was about a month later than usual. (By the way cattle growing would be a lucrative business for those who are disposed to go into it.) Fruit is a pretty good crop. Last winter was unusually cold. The ground froze under the leaves, and the inhabitants were afraid their timber would all be killed. The cold season being shorter and less severe, many expenses would be greatly diminished, as clothing, fuel, etc. People would not need to make slaves of themselves to maintain a mere existence, but could afford a little leisure for rest, and to cultivate their higher natures. A situation well to the South, would be desirable for this reason, as well as that it would be better for fruit.

All the land offices have been lately closed, to keep out speculators, it is supposed; but pre-emptors (which hold the land for a year) can be had at any time. One man might pre-empt for others. Mr. S. did so for several friends. The amount of land one man may buy with the benefit of the graduation law, is 320 acres—enough for a reasonable man, I should think.

I have not learned as much about

the 12 1/2 cent land as the other, but understand that it lies mostly in the S. E. part of the State, (St. Louis District.) One man I talked with, said it included as good land as any in the State, but that it was generally too uneven to suit him. (He didn't like Kansas for the same reason.) That is just the reason why I would prefer it, unless it is too broken. It would be better than a level country for several reasons—better for fruit, better scenery, better water and more healthy. I would rather have it a little mountainous than not. Besides, the other reasons, it would give good southern exposures for grapes and other fruit.

Land at 12 1/2 cents is certainly preferable, (other things being equal,) to that at 75 cents. But I would not sacrifice anything worth while for such a consideration. With a rapid influx of immigration making a ready market for all that could be raised, a man ought to make enough of his land in a single season to pay for a good home at 75 cents. Some who have means to do so, might prefer to buy improved farms. These, as I learned from Mr. S., can be had far cheaper than farms similarly situated farther North or East. He stated that farms with first rate improvements could be got at from \$5 to \$25 per acre.

The fact is, slaveholding in Missouri is getting to be a precarious business, and slaveholders are anxious to leave and go where their property will be more safe. Slavery will probably continue to exist in Arkansas, south, and the Indian Territory, south-west, and it would be advisable to locate far enough from either to be on of its atmosphere—30 to 50 miles I would consider a safe distance. It would also be desirable to locate on a stream large enough to furnish plenty of power for machinery, and perhaps also water for irrigation, etc.

Now, what I am coming at, is this: There are several Reformers in this neighborhood, myself included, who talk of going to Missouri and starting a reform neighborhood. I am acquainted with several in other parts who will also be likely to go. We want to get as many wholesome, practical reformers as we can who like the idea of going with us. We want if possible, to go in sufficient numbers to control popular sentiment, establish a Union Store, Library Association, and such other measures of economy and progress as may be thought best. I would not propose any special rules for future action, but leave it to circumstances to develop such measures as may be needed. Some may form Associations, and others co-operate in certain directions as a matter of economy. It would be desirable to have none along but those who are practical in their Reform, and who dispense with tobacco, pork, drugs, and spirituous liquors.

We do not expect entirely to escape the privations incident to the settlement of a new country, but there will be much less than in Iowa or Kansas, for the reason that Missouri has been partially settled for a good many years, and the necessities and conveniences of life are far more plenty than in newer and more northern states. I think the advantages to be gained will far overbalance the privations; and those who cannot endure a little temporary inconvenience for the sake of the benefits to be gained, are not worth having.

Whatever is done, should be done without unnecessary delay. I would propose that some one or more suitable persons who can do so, start on an exploring expedition as soon as possible; find a suitable location (where there is considerable vacant land in a body) make a start for themselves and pre-empt for others who could follow up as fast as they got ready. (Pre-emption fees are one dollar.)

Let us have as much concert of action as circumstances will allow.

Any person possessing further information respecting Southern Missouri, would confer a favor by publishing it. Those wishing to join the movement, may address the writer, (enclosing a stamp if an answer is desired.) We expect to report progress through the Social Revolutionary Union Co. Water-Cure, Cottage Grove, Ind.

Way, are pretty good, eyes like an owl's eye?—B. says they are apt to give the heartburn.

Seek to be pardoned; but above all seek to be beloved.

### Our Local Newspapers.

On this subject one of our exchanger holds the following sensible remarks:

"Occasionally we meet with a subscriber who complains of the amount of advertising in our columns, and with a friend who would become a subscriber but for that obstacle. Such men are unreasonable. They all seem unconscious of the fact that nineteen-twentieths of the newspapers in the country would be compelled to suspend at once, but for the advertising patronage they get; but, says one—and the objection comes up just as if it had not been answered a thousand times—

"I can get the paper, a paper twice as large as yours, and without advertisements in its columns, at a less rate than you charge for yours."

Yes, sir, you can. But that paper prints thousands of miles and where we print hundreds. But the matter is worked off perhaps in half a dozen other papers with as many different names. Few of the mass of Journals in the country enjoy such a monopoly of advantages, and it can only be commanded in large cities.

When you get your mammoth sheet, do you leave the local intelligence which relates to you personally—transpiring in your midst; of moment to you and yours in every point of view?

Take the question home with you and think of it. It is admitted on all hands that a free press is a safeguard to the country; that a journal that conveys to us intelligence of events that spring up in our midst; those over which we have control, as well as those transpiring abroad, over which we have less control—is one that presents the strongest claim to your confidence. We hold it to be the duty of every good citizen to support his own town paper. If he can take more than one, he may with propriety go abroad for the second; but if he can take but one, the local paper should always have the preference. His advertisements contain matter that interests every class of community and every member of a family. The local paper should aim to furnish a compendium of both the local and general news of the day; and having done that, it has established a claim upon the community in which it may be located."

### Look on This Picture and then on That.

"Father is coming!" and little round faces grow long and merry voices are hushed, and toys are hustled into the closet, and mamma glances nervously at the door, and baby is bribed with a lump of sugar, to keep the peace. Father enters; his business face relaxes into a smile, and the little group huddled, like timid sheep, in the corner; tea is dispatched as silently as if speaking were prohibited by the statute book, and the children creep, like culprits to bed, marvelling that baby dare crow so loud, now that "Father has come."

"Father is coming!" and bright eyes sparkle for joy; tiny feet dance with glee, eager faces press against the window pane, and a bevy of rosy lips claim kisses at the door; picture looks are unheeded on the table, where tops and balls and dolls and kites are fearlessly discussed. Father enters, and little Suzy lays her soft cheek against the paternal whiskers, with the most fearless abandon. "Charley gets a love pat for his 'metat'; mamma's face grows radiant, and the evening paper is read, (not silently, but loud,) and tea and coast, and time vanishes with equal celerity, for jubilee is arrived, "Father has come!"

### HATRED OF WORK.—Henry Ward Beecher says:

"God is the most wonderful worker in the universe—facile—sleepless, untiring; but men, instead of counting it joy to labor, are always striving to evade what is to them a burden, and look forward with delight to the time when they can retire. As a worm, feeding upon molasses leaves, might say, 'How glad I shall be when I am old enough to rob myself into a cocoon!' so many of the leaves of duty and long the day higher joy than such work brings. And thus we have contented merchants, contented lawyers, contented Ministers, contented everything. That worm cocoon is worth a hundred times the men are spoiled—it does not pay to unthread them."

### The Richmond South on Gov. Walker—A Hard Lick.

(From the Richmond South, July 27th.)

Just as we predicted, the alarming insurrection against which Governor Walker directed eight companies of United States troops, turns out a contemptible humbug. The whole affair was perfectly transparent. It was gotten up—fabricated from the scantiest materials—for the evident purpose of extorting the govt. of Kansas from the inevitable predicament in which his usurpations have involved him. But the attempt, extremely difficult in any contingency, has proved in this instance a wretched failure. The game was played with an audacious entirety, which showed a supreme contempt of public scrutiny. Even the juggler's slight wanting to insure a momentary reception. Look at it: The abolitionists of Lawrence, encouraged by the "pacifist" policy of Walker, refused to accept the municipal charter conferred by the territorial legislature and enacted one to suit themselves, essentially different in its provisions. They thus placed themselves in direct collision with the constituted authorities, and of course it became the duty of the governor to enforce the laws. Such an insignificant outbreak, the necessary consequence of Walker's paltering conduct, was the easiest matter in the world to subdue. But Walker did not choose to regard the affair so lightly. Here he thought was a rare chance to re-establish himself in the good graces of the southern democracy, by a mock show of alacrity in repressing the insubordination of the abolitionists. He telegraphed at once to Washington that civil war had again broken out in Kansas with unprecedented intensity, put forth a proclamation to the citizens of Lawrence, in which their resistance to the law is described as the most "iniquitous rebellion which has ever disgraced any age or country," and stopped Col. Harnay's expedition against the Mormons, in order to suppress the dreadful insurrection. His apologists were in ecstasies at this unexpected turn in the tide, and the "terrible rebellion in Kansas" was wrought up in the blackest color in imagination. How short-lived the joy! The news has scarcely reached Washington, before all is again quiet in the territory. The most "iniquitous rebellion" that ever disgraced any age or country, is quelled with magical rapidity, and the valiant governor has the satisfaction to report to the war department that he has no further use for the United States troops destined for Utah! Thus began and ended the most pitiful farce ever witnessed upon the stage of public events in this country. That "proclamation" should be embalmed in the archives of the nation, and serve as a model for future imitation. Since the days of William the Testy, governor of the ancient colony of Manhattan, such another document has not issued from mortal pen.

### The Will and the Way.

"I learned grammar when I was a private soldier, on the pay of six pence a day. The edge of my berth, or that of my guard bed, was my seat to study in; my knapsack, my book-case, and a bit of board lying on my lap was my writing table. I had no money to purchase a candle or oil; in winter it was rarely that I could get any light but the fire, and only my turn even of that. To buy a pen or piece of paper I was compelled to forgo some portion of my food, though in a state of half starvation. I had not it to ment to call my own, and I had to read and write amid the talk and going, singing, whistling, and bawling of at least half a score of the most reckless men, and that too in their hours of freedom from all control. And I say if I, under these circumstances, could encounter and overcome the task, is there, can there be, in the whole world, a youth who can find an excuse for the non-performance?"—Cobbett.

### A YANKEE WOMAN.—A Hartford paper tells a story of a woman finding a man hanging by the neck to a beam in her house. She cut the rope, threw him down stairs, held his head in a pail of water until he was restored, and then lapped him soundly with a strap. Afterwards he went into her room and began to show fight, when she attacked him with a rolling pin, drove him into the next room, and locked him in. The next day she gave birth to a fine boy, that weighed nine pounds, and is doing very well.

### Irritable Christians.

There was a clergyman who often became quite vexed at finding his little grandchildren in his study. One day one of these little children was standing by his mother's side, and she was speaking to him of heaven.

"Alas," said he, "I don't want to go to heaven."

"Don't want to go to heaven my son?"

"No ma, I'm sure I don't."

"Why not?"

"Why, grandpa will be there, won't he?"

"Why, yes, I hope he will."

"Well, just as soon as he sees us, he will come scolding along, and say, 'What! when? where? what are all these boys here for? I don't want to go to heaven if grandpa is going to be there.'"

### Artesian Wells in Prairie Countries.

The following article from the *Prairie City Transcript*, contains suggestions that may prove valuable to the inhabitants of prairie country where water is difficult to be obtained:

"One of the greatest objections to this country is found in the scarcity of water on the prairies. Wood can be provided in most localities, or coal can be used, but there are no springs on the higher prairies that can be depended upon in dry times."

"Wells can be sunk in almost any place at a trifling expense, but then a well is not a spring by any means. What is wanted is an ever flowing fountain of water, that needs no machinery to draw it up from the depths where nature placed it. Pumps are an excellent thing in their place, but they are not exactly the article for watering cattle."

"A remedy for this evil has been discovered. Springs can be manufactured equal to those that are made in the original manner. "It has been a matter of doubt with many, whether, on a large plain like our western world, artesian wells could be rendered available, or whether the water would rise to a point above the surface of the earth. This doubt has been entirely dispelled by actual demonstration. Numerous wells, in various parts of the country have been made, and have as readily thrown the water above the surface as if in mountainous countries."

"Several wells have been sunk near the eastern border of this State, and we believe without exception they have been a triumph success. The expense of making these wells is not as great as generally supposed. We think the average depth is not above two hundred feet. The cost of such a well cannot be greatly above those of the ordinary kind."

"We are not sufficiently acquainted with the expense or capability of these wells to venture an opinion, but we cannot see why our own city could not get a good supply of water in this manner better and cheaper than in any other manner. Let this be as it may, there is no doubt artesian wells are to become a prime cause of the settlement, and a great means of comfort on our wild western prairies. These artificial springs are to water and fructify the soil which before has been only moistened by rains direct from heaven."

"The benefit which these will confer upon the boundless prairies of the West, is absolutely incalculable."

### What is a "Dunker?"

In the *Church Journal's* enumeration of Baptist sects the other day, allusion was made to the "Dunkers,"—and a correspondent of the *New York Express* wants to know who and what they are. He is answered thus:—

The "Dunkers" are German Baptists, abounding in considerable numbers in New England, particularly Massachusetts. On Sundays, on entering their meeting houses, there is a general kissing all around, the males only kissing the males however, and the females the females. They do not educate for the ministry but appoint any one for their minister whom they think has the requisite qualifications. The "Dunkers" wear broad brimmed hats, long beards, and coats of primitive cut, and with no more buttons on than are actually necessary. These are their leading peculiarities of person and worship. They practice abstinence and mortification, and, we believe, deny the eternity of future punishment."

### Biddy was a native of the Emerald Isle, and a servant of one of my neighbors, a Roman Catholic priest, who partook of his meals solitary and alone. Father B—rang his bell, the well-known tinkle of which caused his domestic to appear immediately.

"Biddy, bring me some salt."

"Sure and I will, your reverence."

Fortwith reappeared Biddy with the article in her hand. Said the master,

"Never again bring me anything in your hand. You should have brought it on a plate!"

The evening meal being over, the bell was again rung, and the faithful domestic instantly appeared.

"I want my slippers."

Biddy went, and returned bearing in her hand a plate, upon which were the priest's slippers!

About the hardest case we ever heard of was a murderer named Stone, executed many years ago in Exeter, N. H. Just before the rope was placed around his neck, he requested the sheriff to give him a mug of ale. The request being acceded to, he commenced blowing the froth from the ale. "What are you doing that for?" nervously asked the sheriff. "Because," returned the perfect wreck, "I don't think froth is healthy."